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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 021238-427

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: )  
Walter P. HEMPFLING *et al.* ) Group Art Unit: 1731  
Application No.: 09/714,105 ) Examiner: Dionne A. Walls  
Filed: November 17, 2000 ) Confirmation No.: 4974  
For: METHOD FOR REDUCTION OF )  
TOBACCO SPECIFIC NITROSAMINES )

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

- ☐ A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.
- ☐ A Terminal Disclaimer and a check for ☐ \$55.00 (2814) ☐ \$110.00 (1814) to cover the requisite Government fee are also enclosed.
- ☐ Also enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.
- ☐ Applicant(s) request continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the ☐ \$375.00 (2801) ☐ \$750.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).
- ☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted \_\_, on \_\_, for which continued examination is requested.
- ☐ Applicant(s) request suspension of action by the Office until at least \_\_, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.
- ☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (146/246) is also enclosed.
- ☒ No additional claim fee is required.

☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	NO. OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST NO. OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	ADDT'L FEE
Total Claims		MINUS =		× \$18.00 (1202) =	
Independent Claims		MINUS =		× \$84.00 (1201) =	
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$280.00 (1203)					
Total Amendment Fee					
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Amendment Fee					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					-0-

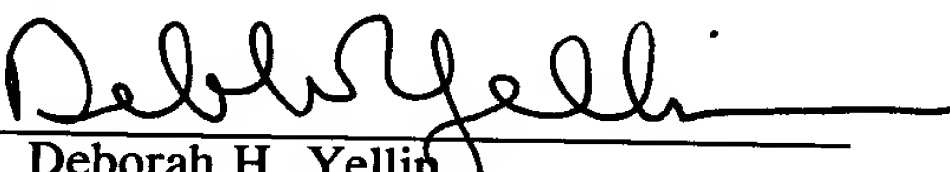
☐ A claim fee in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ Charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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Date: January 6, 2003



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TL4/9/03

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in complete and timely response to the Official Action  
mailed on October 4, 2002 (Paper No. 11).

Please amend the above-cited application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 10-13 and 27 as follows:

10. (Once Amended) The process of Claim 8, wherein the air-curing includes  
the step of reducing moisture content of a darkened tobacco portion to a preselected, final  
moisture content in the range of 10 to 30%.

11. (Once Amended) The process of Claim 10, wherein the air-curing time is  
initiated and completed within 7 days.

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